

FARM LABOR NEWS

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Big Farmers Plot To Flood Nation With Cheap Foreign Labor

The existence of a conspiracy on the part of large scale industrialized farm interests to let down the immigration bars and to flood the United States with cheap foreign labor for exploitation on the nation's farms, was revealed today by H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, A.F. of L.

Secret Meetings Held

Mitchell, who returned to the Memphis headquarters of the Farm Labor Union today after a thirty day trip to the west coast, made public copies of minutes of two secret meetings held by representatives of the big farm operators in Salt Lake City on August 23rd. and in Washington, D. C., September 9th.

Congress To Enact Law

The documents reveal that a committee sponsored by national farm organizations (the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the National Grange, and the Associated Farmers of California) have prepared a bill to be introduced in the 80th. Congress in January which would establish on a permanent basis, a national farm labor program costing 30 million dollars yearly.

The permanent program called for by the committee will provide for the continued recruitment and transportation of foreign nationals into the United States in peace time, for exploitation on the nation's farms, ranches, and plantations. Such a program would be carried out with federal funds.

Government To Import Farm Labor

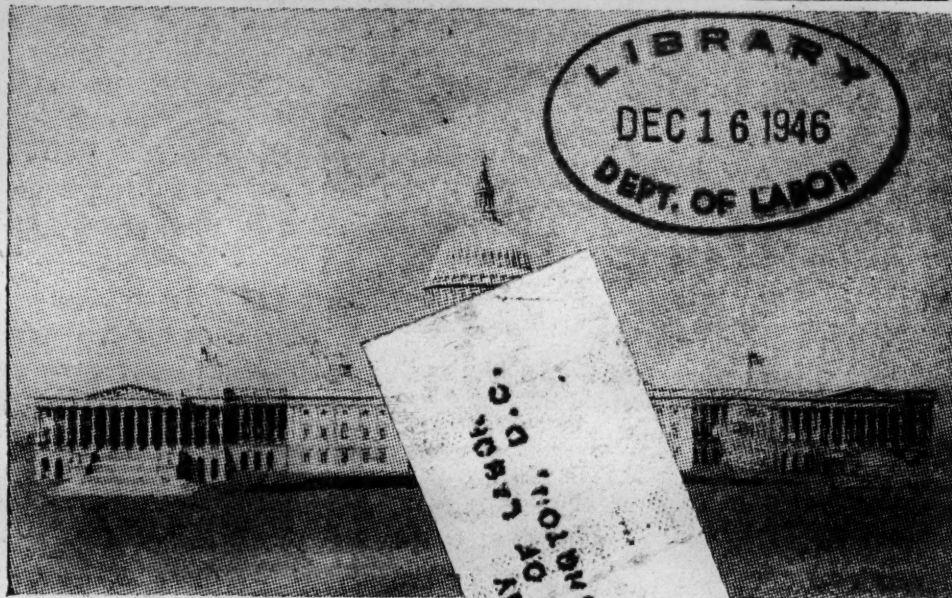
The proposed legislation permitting transportation of foreign workers for agricultural employment will exempt such workers from sections of the Immigration Act of February 5, 1917, applying to contract laborers; payment of passage money by corporations; literacy tests; and other provisions of the law designed to protect American workers from unfair competition of cheap, imported foreign labor.

U. S. Authorities

Let Down Bars

Mitchell said that on his trip he also learned that the U. S. immigration authorities are winking at the illegal entry of thousands of "Wet Backs," or Mexican citizens who cross the Rio Grande River into Texas. He said that these Mexican farm workers are being held in a state of peonage. They are promised 25¢ an hour but are forced to pay 25¢ for a loaf of bread in the growers' commissary. The threat of immediate deportation is held over the Mexican

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Convention

To All Locals, District Councils and Members
National Farm Labor Union (A. F. Of L.)

Greetings:

This comes to notify you that the 13th. Annual Convention of the National Farm Labor Union, also known as the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, will meet in Washington, D. C., Monday, January 13, 1947, and continue in session for 3 days, ending Wednesday, January 15th.

All Locals and Districts are hereby instructed to elect their delegates to attend the Convention in accordance with Article X, Section 2 of the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Farm Labor Union, which reads as follows:

Delegates To The National Convention

"Each local shall be entitled to send on or more delegates to the Convention. Each District Council or Department shall send one or more delegates to the Convention."

All sessions will be held at the Mt. Vernon Place Methodist Church, at 900 Massachusetts Ave., North West, Washington, D. C.

All Locals and District Councils are urged to call a special meeting and to elect their delegates before December 15th. and send their credentials to the National Office not later than January 1st.

Any paid up members of the Union will be welcome to attend the Convention and to take part in the sessions. All friends of the Union will also be welcome to visit the Convention at any time during the sessions.

A special rate of \$25 per person for the round trip fare from Memphis to Washington has been arranged with one of the regular bus lines. Local Districts and members are asked to send in their bus fare before January 1st. so reservations may be made for all who want to go to the Convention.

No Jobs In California

H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, announced on his return from California November 25, that there are nearly half a million unemployed workers in that state and that there are no openings for farm workers at this time.

Mitchell said that except for citrus fruit and vegetable crops in the southern part of California, there was very little farm work going on. Canneries in northern California are now running with small crews or are closed down for the season.

The Union President reported that practically all of the cotton crop in west Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona had also been picked. He said hundreds of migratory workers are now heading back toward Oklahoma and Arkansas.

He reported that very few Negroes have as yet been employed on farms on the west coast. Most of them went into the cities to work in shipyards and in aircraft plants. The plants have been closed since the end of the war and many Negro workers are still unemployed.

Organizers Called In For 2-Day School

All Union organizers are being called into Headquarters for a two day course at an "organizer's school" December 9 and 10. President Mitchell has sent out letters to all members holding credentials to report to the Beale Avenue Baptist Church in Memphis at 10:30 A.M., December ninth.

Captain Taylor, Organization Director, will be in charge, assisted by Vice-President Betton. There will be two sessions daily for the two-day period.

Organizers will be refreshed on the Union's historical program, but the main purpose will be the reviewing of the significance and importance of American Federation of Labor affiliation. Additional instruction will be given on ordinary, day-to-day work, relationship with local and council officers, reports and records. Answers to questions most frequently asked will be provided, as well as a list of "do's" and "don'ts".

Over 30 organizers are expected to attend from Missouri, Mississippi, Arkansas and Alabama.

Convention To Meet In Washington January 13th-15th

The 13th Annual Convention of the National Farm Labor Union will meet in the nation's capital the second Monday in January, 1947.

The sessions will be held in the Mt. Vernon Place Methodist Church located on Massachusetts Ave., near 9th. St. N. W. on January 13th., 14th., and 15th. and will be open to the public.

A Conference Of The Excluded

The Convention will be called the "Conference Of The Excluded" since farm labor is denied all social security benefits which protect other American workers. While in Washington, the delegates will call on members of the 80th Congress and seek to enlist the support of the public for the extension of social security legislation to all farm workers. The delegates to the Convention will urge Congress to provide pensions for the aged; unemployment insurance for farm workers; to extend the wage and hour law to agriculture; and to include all farm labor under the National Labor Relations Act.

Government And Labor Officials Invited

The program for the Convention has not been completed as the December issue of the Farm Labor News goes to press, however, a number of prominent government officials and officers of the American Federation of Labor will be invited to attend. President William Green of the A. F. of L. will be invited to address the Convention during the sessions.

Wage Ceilings Out The Window

Ceilings on the wages of farm labor no longer exist. The Executive Order issued by President Harry S. Truman abolishes all wage controls imposed by the government on wages of workers.

The rate of \$2.65 per 100 lbs. for cotton picking in the Mississippi Delta is now illegal. All other maximum wage rates imposed on agricultural workers throughout the United States ceased to have any legal standing when President Truman issued his order.

Employers of farm labor may now pay a fair wage without government interference. Farm workers may demand any wage they are strongly enough organized to force the employer to pay. The ceilings are now "out the window."

'A Farm Labor Housing Grab'

The Pacific Rural Press, published in San Francisco, Cal., advises the big commercial farm operators on the west coast to "grab the FSA housing" for migratory farm laborers.

There are a large number of permanent and mobile farm labor camps established by the late Farm Security Administration to house labor that follows the crops up and down the west coast. Congress has ordered the Farmers Home Administration, successor to FSA, to "liquidate" these housing projects for farm hands before June 30th.

According to Pacific Rural Press, an unnamed government agent has urged that plans be worked out whereby this housing built for the use of farm labor, may be turned over to local governments, free of all costs, to be operated under local ownership, management, and control.

In other words, the commercialized farm interests are seeking a way to own and operate farm workers' housing so that their labor may be easier to control.

Similar camps for migratory farm labor set up by Farm Security Administration in Texas, Florida, New Jersey, and elsewhere, is included in this sell out by the government. The Agricultural Extension Service is reported to be quite anxious for its county agents to get their hands on these housing projects. They can then serve their masters, the big farmers, more easily. They can then hold farm labor in a state of near peonage and force down the wages now being paid for farm work.

All-Union Farms Demanded By British Workers

Farm workers meeting in England last month unanimously approved a suggestion that henceforth there should be 100% membership on the farms.

Non-union workers in one English county were blamed for difficulty in reaching wage agreements with employers, and Mr. A. C. Dann, General Secretary of the National Union of Agricultural Workers, said, "A union which has the responsibility of maintaining and increasing wages and improving general conditions has the right to determine whether or not it is wise or safe to tolerate non-unionists."

The president of the British Farm Workers Union announced that they now have over 150,000 members and over a million dollars in their treasury.

Many European countries are far ahead of the United States in bringing the benefits of unionism to farm workers. "Big Business" farm organizations such as the Farm Bureau and the National Cotton Council, which have pretended to represent all working farmers, are largely to blame for the delay in this country in making a better life for those who really do the work on the farms.

A.F. Of L. Organizer, El Paso, Texas

George F. Webber, A.F. of L. Organizer and Secretary of the Central Labor Union of El Paso, Texas, joined President Mitchell on an organizational survey of the southwest early in November.



GEORGE F. WEBBER

Mr. Webber is the organizer of the Agricultural Workers Union Local 53, recently chartered by the National Farm Labor Union at El Paso. El Paso is an A. F. of L. town—over 13,000 industrial workers belong to A.F. of L. unions. The C.I.O., on the other hand, has a total membership of less than 1,500 workers in the entire area. The A.F. of L. is also a political power in El Paso. The city and county officials are without exception, friendly to organized labor. Some officials of the city and county are members of A. F. of L. unions.

El Paso, being on the Mexican border, has a large number of Spanish speaking citizens. Mr. Webber reports that for many years these Spanish speaking workers were discriminated against on jobs, but that since they have become organized into unions, they have succeeded in raising their living standards considerably.

The farm workers are cruelly exploited by the owners of the big cotton and alfalfa ranches. The farms range from 160 to 1,000 acre tracts of irrigated land. The land is worth \$500 to \$1,000 per acre. Some of this land will produce two bales of cotton per acre. All of the work on the farms is done by "Mexican" workers. At the present they are receiving wages of \$2 per day on the farm. They must trade at commissaries where the price of a loaf of bread is often 25¢.

Under the direction of George F. Webber, officers and members of Local 53 are beginning a campaign to improve these conditions through organization and collective bargaining with their employers. Since most of the workers are employed less than 125 days a year in producing cotton and alfalfa, the National Farm Labor Union is interested in working out plans whereby they may migrate to seasonal jobs in other areas.

Why The Miners Stick To The Union

The power of the United States government, the facilities of the newspapers and radio are arrayed against the United Mine Workers of America. Those who represent wealth and property are again out to get John L. Lewis. Some people may wonder why the miners stand 100 per cent behind John L. who is pictured as a tyrant, an anarchist, and worse.

Conditions Of The Mines

The men who work under ground in the coal mines all over America know what their union means to them. It is not the guy at the top but the man at the bottom of the pit who counts. For generations the mine workers have worked and lived under conditions worse than those of Southern sharecroppers or migratory farm laborers. In normal times the coal miners get just about 200 days work per year. They must buy their groceries in company commissaries. They live in dreary shacks in company towns without sanitary conveniences. The bloom of the cotton in the spring, the white and green of the opening boll in the fall never meet the eyes of a coal miner when he comes up from the pit. Their jobs are dangerous. A man never knows when he goes down into the bowels of the earth that he will live to see his family again. Thousands of miners die each year digging the nation's coal, others are maimed for life. Insurance companies consider the miner a bad risk. It was not until the union was organized that the lot of the miners was improved.

The Record Of The Union

In 1933 the miners' wages were \$14.77 per week. In 1935 they went on strike and won a wage of \$19.58 a week. In 1939 they struck again—the wage went up to \$23.88 a week. After the strike of 1941, they were paid \$30.86 a week. In 1943 they again won a wage increase which brought the rate of pay up to \$41.58 a week. In 1945 their wages were increased to \$58.20. Last spring after the strike was settled, their wages reached \$62.37 a week. They also won what was more important than wages—a welfare fund that will provide medical care, hospital care, and death benefits for all miners.

They have never had such benefits before. In every strike called by Lewis, the miners' conditions were improved. Now the power of the government has been turned against them. If the malefactors of great wealth succeed in striking down John L. Lewis, the President of the UMWA, they will beat down the workers everywhere and break up all the unions. That is why all organized labor, C.I.O. and A.F. of L. alike, are supporting the United Mine Workers of America. That is also why every avenue of public opinion is mobilized into an attempt to lynch the leader of the miners.

The struggle of the miners is one of the battles that will go on until all labor is organized and those who place the rights of property above human welfare at last accept the idea that unions are here to stay.

Farm Laborers Will Not Scab

In a letter to the Memphis Press

Swedish Labor Leader Pays Visit To Union

Yngve Moller, publicity director for the Federation of Labor of Sweden, paid a visit to the National Farm Labor Union in early November. After spending several days in Arkansas and Mississippi observing conditions of working people, Mr. Moller accompanied President H. L. Mitchell and Vice President F. R. Betton on an automobile trip through the southwest.

Mr. Moller reported that there are one and a half million organized workers in Sweden, out of a total population of six million. All are affiliated with the Swedish Federation of Labor. The Swedish Labor Party is in power in his country and is building a real democracy. Sweden was one European country that managed to stay out of the war, although the people were nearly 100 per cent against the Nazis in Germany.

Mr. Moller was the labor delegate to the International Labor Organization meeting in Montreal, Canada this year. He attended and addressed the 65th. annual convention of the American Federation of Labor in Chicago. He also planned to attend the C.I.O. convention before returning to his native land.

New Arkansas Local To Be Set Up

Mae Pearl Kelly, Executive Board member of the Union, has laid the groundwork for a new local in the Lake View community south of Helena, Ark. Captain Taylor and Miss Kelly will return for a mass meeting in the near future to formally set up the local and install its officers.

The Lake View community was formerly a Farm Security Administration project, now being sold to about 100 families who used to be tenants and sharecroppers. They own their own gin, which is operated as a cooperative. The people also had a cooperative store until it burned down recently.

Miss Kelly praised the group highly, saying that they would make a fine Union local, and that there were plenty of good leaders there to carry on the work.

Scimitar on Thanksgiving Day, a Mr. Taliaferro suggested that the way to end the miners' strike is for some labor contractor to recruit thousands of sharecroppers now living in the Mississippi River Delta country and send them into the mines. Taliaferro said that every one knows that these people will soon lose their jobs on the farm due to the coming of the cotton picking machines and that now would be a good time to get rid of them.

There are many reasons why this will not be done. One of them is that there are 30,000 members of the National Farm Labor Union in the Delta country of Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, etc. For every man in the Farm Labor Union, there are ten more standing by who follow the Union's program. No labor recruiters will ever get any of these men to take a miner's job while he is on strike. The National Farm Labor Union will see to that, Mr. Taliaferro.

Pass Your Farm Labor News

On To Your Neighbors. Let

Them Know What The

Union Is Doing For Its

Member.

The War Is Over— Send Them Home Use Ex-GIs On Jobs

On November 1, 1946, there were 56,120 foreign nationals employed in agriculture, according to the Labor Report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. There are 39,180 Mexican citizens; 10,540 Jamaicans; 4,265 Bahamians; 1,693 Barbadians; and 442 other British subjects still working on the farms in the United States.

There are thousands of American citizens depending on farm work for a living, many of them are ex-servicemen who would be glad to have the 65,000 jobs now held by foreign workers. There is no excuse for keeping these foreign nationals in America. The war is over!

First AFL Help From Butchers

Expected help from the various big unions of the American Federation of Labor began to come in last month with the receipt of a substantial check from the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America.

Not only did Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Gorman of the Butchers Union send in money for the National Farm Labor Union's organization drive, but he also wrote President William Green of the A.F. of L. and asked that he arrange a program for financial help to carry forward our work.

Mr. Green replied, "Be assured I appreciate more than words can express, the financial contribution which you made to President H. L. Mitchell of the National Farm Labor Union to be used in carrying on the organizing work of the Union. You are to be commended most highly."

I am tremendously interested in the National Farm Labor Union and in the fine work which President Mitchell is doing. I want to help and assist him in every possible way."

This is not the first time NFLU has been helped by the Butchers Union. Many of our members know President Leon B. Schachter of Local 56 in New Jersey and the fine work he has done in getting off-season work for our members in the fields and canneries. Mr. Gorman and Mr. Schachter also appeared before the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. and urged that a charter be granted to the NFLU last August.

President Mitchell has written his appreciation to Mr. Gorman and to the officers and members of his union and assured them that the money will be put to good use in bringing unionism to the unorganized and underprivileged farm workers.

New Leaflets

New organizing leaflets have been prepared, and are now being printed. They will be sent out to all locals and organizers when they are ready.

Captain Taylor will ask members to give them out in places where there is no organization—and in other union areas where there are large numbers of non-members.

The new material will emphasize our A.F. of L. backing.

Southeast Missouri locals are notified to get their "airplanes" ready.



The Record Of A Wolf In Sheepskin

The American Farm Bureau, organization of big cotton planters and industrialized farm interests, has a record of activity in Washington in 1946 against the interests of common people that could well be envied by the National Association of Manufacturers or the Ku Klux Klan. Almost without exception, that organization opposed all measures supported by organized labor.

"The Nation's Agriculture," which is the Farm Bureau's monthly magazine, contains a feature called, "Keeping Tabs On Washington." In November, "The Nation's Agriculture" gave a report on legislation the "Bureau" supported and opposed. The following analysis is based on their own report:

1. Against Health Insurance

The Farm Bureau was against a National Health Insurance Law (the Wagner-Murray-Dingel Bill) which would have provided for medical and hospital care for all citizens. The Farm Bureau supported the Hill-Burton Bill, which appropriated 75 million dollars to the 48 states for construction of hospitals. This was accepted as a compromise in the place of a national health program, supported by organized labor.

2. Favored Anti-Labor Bill

The Farm Bureau boasts that it secured the enactment of the Hobbs Bill which hampers organized labor.

3. Helped Kill Price Control

The Farm Bureau made "recommendations to Congress" which effectively destroyed O.P.A. price control law. Labor was for a strong O.P.A.

4. Against Higher Wages

The Farm Bureau opposed raising the minimum wage of industrial workers to 65¢ an hour. Labor wanted the minimum wage rate raised to 65¢ an hour.

5. Against FEPC

The Farm Bureau successfully opposed the enactment of a Fair Employment Practices Act. All labor favored FEPC. The Bureau claims to represent thousands of Negro farm people—most of whom are involuntary members.

6. Against Housing For Veterans

The Farm Bureau opposed the enactment of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill which would have provided for government construction of low cost houses for veterans. Labor was for low cost housing.

7. Against Child Care

The Farm Bureau opposed a program to provide care for mothers and children. Labor favored this legislation.

8. Favored Break-Up Employment Service

The Farm Bureau supported a law to return the U. S. Employment Service to the states and thus create 48 different employment services. Labor favored continued operation of the U. S. Employment Service by the federal government.

9. Against Farm Home Owner's Agency

The Farm Bureau was against the enactment of a farm home owner's law to continue lending money to tenants and sharecroppers for rehabilitation and purchase of farms of their own. The law was enacted over the opposition of the Farm Bureau.

10. Secured 12 Million Dollars To Import Foreign Workers

The Farm Bureau secured the enactment of a farm labor supply bill which appropriates 12 million dollars to bring in foreign workers for exploitation of the nation's farms in 1947. This law was passed in the final days of the 79th. Congress without debate.

There are many other recorded incidents of the Farm Bureau supporting legislation against the interests of the American people as a whole. Working people should know who their enemies are—the Farm Bureau heads the list. They have been against nearly everything of benefit to the ordinary man and woman in 1946 and will continue to represent the industrialized farming interests of the nation in 1947.

Negro Paper Betrays Race

A clipping from the Delta Leader, published at Greenville, Miss., by a handkerchief headed Negro, has been sent to the Farm Labor News.

The editor of the Delta Leader is obviously in the pay of Oscar Johnston, owner of the Delta Pine and Land Co., at Scott, Miss. The editor says, "Sharecropping has done more to help the under privileged people to become land owners than anything we know." He also says that people living on Oscar Johnston's plantation have made money and saved it to buy farms of their own. In the next sentence, this so-called editor tells of relatives living on the Delta Pine Land plantation who have been there since 1910. If things are so good on this big plantation, why haven't his relatives bought farms for themselves and moved away?

It appears to the Farm Labor News that there is not any great difference between one plantation and another in the Mississippi Delta. Oscar Johnston's is probably more efficiently operated but it seems that he makes a practice of buying up all of the Negro leadership he can, as witness the performance of "Johnston's Editor" of the Delta Leader.

Honest Advice Is Usually Good

H. L. Mitchell is a man just like the rest of us. That means that he can make mistakes just like any other man. But there is one thing about him that we all have learned since we have been members of the Union. He is an honest man, and when he gives advice to members of the Union, it is honest advice—based on the best information available.

This is to give credit for a bit of honest and good advice that has saved our people thousands of dollars. Members all over the cotton country have told me to thank him for the little story in the Farm Labor News, in which he told of his personal experience as a youthful sharecropper holding his little bit of cotton to gamble and try to "make a killing when cotton climbed to a dollar a pound." Mitchell said that our folks can't afford to gamble on getting a little bit more—that we should sell before the cotton market broke.

Nearly all of our members took his advice and sold their cotton at a good price as fast as they could get it picked out. Then the market broke—and the price went down. But our folks weren't caught holding their cotton off the market.

One member put it like this, "I can pay my union dues for the next twenty years out of what I saved by taking good advice that Mr. Mitchell put in the Union paper."

Yes, honest advice is nearly always good advice.—Barney B. Taylor.

Member Of Union Honored In New York City

Executive Council member, Carrie Dilworth of Local 163, Gould, Ark., was an honored guest and speaker at the annual luncheon of the Workers Defense League in New York City on November 2nd.

The Workers Defense League, official defense agency of the National Farm Labor Union, this year honored Dr. Frank P. Graham, President of the University of North Carolina. The luncheon was attended by many nationally known labor and liberal leaders.

Mrs. Dilworth, in a brief speech to the audience of some 500, told of the work of the Union in the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta area and concluded by saying positively, "We will organize the South!" She received greater applause than any other of the famous speakers on the platform. One of these speakers wrote President Mitchell, "You have every reason to be proud of your representative. You are doing grand work."

Barney B. Taylor also attended the New York gathering and was a member of a panel discussion on "The Southern Front."

New Local At Palestine

One of the new Locals of the Union to be organized this month it at Palestine, Arkansas, about ten miles southwest of Forrest City.

The new Union group, called the El Canaan Local, was organized by Rev. T. B. Burggens, President of the Shady Grove Local at Forrest City, and Organization Director Taylor. They were assisted by Virgil Jorden, Union member-at-large, of Palestine.

Ivory McDaniel was elected President; John Sanders, Vice President; and Minnie McDaniel was named Secretary. The Local will meet weekly at the El Canaan Church.

Betton Visits Lehi

After returning from the West, Vice President Betton paid a visit to the Lehi Local near Marion, Ark., which he had organized a few weeks ago, and reported that the new union members were doing well.

As usual, Betton returned to the office with new membership applications in his pocket.

Farm Labor News

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Workers Leaving South

The U. S. Department of Labor reports that an average of 1,300 people left the Southern states each day from 1940 to 1945. They were headed for the industrial centers of the North and West. 1,600,000 left the South during the war years. The state of Mississippi lost 230,000 citizens while Arkansas lost 265,000.

The Department of Labor says this mass migration out of the South is due to high birth rates among Southern families and to lack of job opportunities for young people. Over half of the people who left the South were between the ages of 14 and 34 years. Only a severe depression in the country will stop this trend.

A survey by the War Department says that 15 out of every 100 ex-serviceman intend to seek jobs in the West and North.

The Department of Labor states that 3 million people changed their residence from one Southern state to another and that this shift in population reflects a movement of people from the farms to the cities.

Big Farmers Plot—

(Continued From Page One)

workers and they dare not protest their ill treatment.

20,000 'Wet Backs'

Cross Rio Grande River

Mitchell said that estimates given by reliable people indicate that there were no less than 20,000 "Wet Backs" who have entered the Rio Grande Valley illegally. He continued by saying that the native American workers are leaving the farms in the Valley and are flocking into cities such as San Antonio and El Paso seeking work at wages that will permit them to live.

Govt. Imports Mexicans; Citizens Out Of Work

Mitchell stated that 2,000 Mexican nationals were brought into Phoenix, Arizona by train at government expense to harvest fruit and vegetable crops, and that 400 miles away in El Paso, there were at least 2,000

unemployed native American workers of Spanish descent. He said that less than half of such government imported foreign workers were eventually returned to Mexico.

Extension Service

Serves Big Farmers

He cited this as an example of the present handling of the farm labor program by the Agricultural Extension Services in the western states and charged that if Congress adopts the big farm operators' permanent program, it would mean that the American tax payers would continue to subsidize commercialized farming, as they have during war time. Foreign nationals are brought in for limited periods with the federal government paying all expenses both ways, providing housing, etc. The employing farmer just pays the prevailing wage to the foreign worker and has no other expense nor any responsibility for providing year round employment.

Crittenden County Vets Defeated

The Crittenden County political machine barely defeated a fighting group of young World War II veterans in the recent elections.

Although the Union took no part whatsoever in the election, most members were hoping for a GI victory. Their feeling was expressed by a member of the Edmondson Local who said, "We don't know anything about these soldier boys and they haven't asked us to vote for them, or said anything to us at all. But we read where they said they were against law officers beating up defenseless people and against holding people in slavery on the plantations. That's all we wanted to know, and we are sorry they lost."

Although Crittenden County has calmed down a great deal in recent years, it was once one of the worst places in Arkansas in opposing the Union, and it still needs improvement.

Local Union leaders believe that the scare the ex-soldiers threw into the politicians might calm them down some more. The GIs say they will come right back in the next election and try again.

Organizing Under Way In Rice Fields

Organization of rice field and mill workers is making fine progress in the Stuttgart, Ark., area, it was reported by Organizer Uearl Haywood of Cotton Plant.

Haywood has secured the cooperation of the local Negro ministers and teachers, and is working closely with a national representative of the A.F. of L. who is in Stuttgart to organize construction laborers, restaurant and laundry workers.

One of the ministers giving help to the Union will be remembered by old-time members around Earle and Parkin. He is Reverend Wright, fighting young preacher who was forced to leave his home and church by threats of violence in the early days of the Union.

Capt. Taylor recently addressed one of the meetings in Stuttgart and reported that prospects were good for organization of two or more locals of rice field workers.

How To Get Your Copy Of Farm Labor News

The FARM LABOR NEWS is being sent to all paid up members of the Union. Any paid up member who is not receiving the FARM LABOR NEWS each month, should write to the office giving his name and full address. Non-members who want to get the FARM LABOR NEWS must subscribe. The rate is 25¢ a year. Stamps, money orders, or cash may be sent to the FARM LABOR NEWS, Box 443, Memphis 1, Tennessee. Tell us the place where you get your mail. Give route number, box number, town, and state.

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